

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-11 IO-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

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S E C R E T USNATO 5096

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: REVISION OF MBFR DATA: NATO FORCES

REF: STATE 192115

1. ON BASIS OF USEFUL CONSULTATIONS AT USNATO WITH LTC KELIHER OF DIA, AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH ACTING MBFR WG CHAIRMAN, WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING APPROACH TO DEVELOP DATA ON NATO FORCES COMPARABLE TO DTAT ON WARSAW PACT IN MCM.

2. SHORTLY AFTER MC 224 CONFERENCE AGREES ON FORMAT FOR INITIAL MCM, WE WOULD ASK MBFR WG (A) TO TASK THE STAFF GROUP TO GATHER AND ASSEMBLE DATA ON NATO FORCES IN NGA IN TABLES AND LEVEL OF DETAIL COMPARABLE TO MCM, AND (B) TO PUBLISH THIS DATA AS A MILSTAM OR OTHER WG DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ALLIED NEGOTIATORS AND GOVERNMENTS FOR INTERNAL REFERENCE ON SAME BASIS AS MCM.

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3. THIS APPROACH WOULD AVOID NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FORMAL QUESTIONNAIRE ON NATO FORCES. IS/IMS OFFICIALS BELIEVE DATA ON NATO FORCES IN NGA GENERALLY COMPARABLE IN SCALE, RANGE, AND DEPTH TO MCM DATA ON PACT CAN BE ASSEMBLED FROM INFORMATION

AVAILABLE WITHIN NATO. THERE WOULD BE SOME VARIATION IN ACCURACY AND CUTOFF DATES FOR NATO AND PACT DATA BECAUSE OF DIFFERENT MECHANISMS FOR COLLECTING AND UPDATING NATO AND PACT DATA.

4. STAFF GROUP MAY ENCOUNTER SOME GAPS IN NATIONAL DATA FOR SOME ALLIES, BUT SHOULD BE ABLE TO FILL IN ANY MISSING INFORMATION THROUGH CONSULTATIONS WITH CAPITALS. FURTHERMORE, SOME ALLIES MAY OBJECT IF IN TAILORING NATO FIGURES TO MCM FORMAT, STAFF GROUP COMES UP WITH FIGURES THAT DO NOT CORRESPOND TO THOSE TO WHICH SOME ALLIES ARE DEDICATED; HOWEVER, SUCH OBJECTIONS CAN PROBABLY BE OVERCOME THROUGH SUITABLE CAVEATS IN COVERING MEMORANDUM. THERE MAY ALSO BE SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AND ACCESS PROBLEMS BECAUSE SOME ALLIES IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON RELEASE OF SOME FORCE DATA THEY PROVIDE TO NATO; THIS SHOULD BE OVERCOME THROUGH COSMIC TOP SECRET CLASSIFICATION OF STAFF GROUP PRODUCT.

5. SUCCESS IN IMPLEMENTING THIS PROCEDURE WILL DEPEND IN PART ON SUPPORT OF OTHER ALLIES AND THEIR INTEREST IN USING PRODUCT IN MBFR WORK. WE WISH TO RESERVE JUDGMENT, UNTIL AFTER WE SEE HOW THIS EXERCISE GOES, ON WHETHER IT SHOULD BE REPEATED TO PROVIDE UPDATES ON NATO AS COMPANION TO FUTURE UPDATES ON PACT FOR MBFR OR EVENTUALLY INCORPORATED INTO MCM.

ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS BY OCTOBER 10.
MCAULIFFE.

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To: STATE
SECDEF INFO BONN
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